

ABSTRACT

The A. Temple Site (7NC-D-68, N-5308) is a mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century tenant site located along Route 4 in Ogletown, White Clay Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The Temple Site was found during Phase I and II testing of the Ogletown Interchange Project Area. Phase III fieldwork was undertaken by the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research in 1988. The research was funded by the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) with the purpose of providing compliance information to satisfy Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (BAHP).

A 25 percent stratified, systematic, unaligned sample of the plowzone was employed to provide a representative sample of artifacts and a reliable view of their distribution. Upon completion of this testing, the remaining portion of the plowzone was mechanically removed and 86 features were excavated, including one stone house foundation, one brick-lined well, six outbuildings, two possible privies, and fencelines.

Archival research and artifacts recovered from the excavations indicate that the site was occupied as a tenant farmstead from ca. 1820 to 1950. Architectural comparisons of house dimensions with other tenant and non-tenant dwellings in the area reveal that the remains of the Temple house reflect the possibility of the farm having been inhabited by farm managers rather than tenants.

Soil analysis was conducted at the site to determine whether any patterns or concentrations of certain soil trace elements could be correlated with the occurrence of particular activities which would reflect site usage or human behavior.

Difference-of-proportion tests conducted on the ceramics recovered from the Temple Site investigations were employed to give an accurate comparison with other sites within the region. Results of these tests showed that social status cannot be determined solely upon ceramics, but must incorporate archival material, documentary data, architectural information and archaeological remains to have a complete understanding of social ranking.